Reading Matter on Every Page.

JOHN H. OBERLY, Editor.

What is Beecher's loss is the publishers' gain. The newspapers of New York city count an average increase of twentyof the trial.

THE Metropolis Times says that it is supposed that the trees and buds north of the Ohio and Missisisppi railroad in that section have been killed by the severe cold of the last two months.

A RITTER but not formidable fight is being made against the confirmation, as bishop of the diocese of Illinois, of Dr. DeKoven. The objections to him are numerous, the principal one being his highchurchism. Notwithstanding the opposition, it is believed that Dr. DeKoven will accept the bishopric, and that his consecration will take place in A) ril.

The President's son-in-law is a boxer. During a visit to the Washington gymunsium the other day, he engaged in a set-to with Collins, the "Cast-iron Man." In the first round, he drew the blood on Collins' mouth, and knocked him down; in the second round, he knocked him down again; in the third round, he knocked him down again, and that ended the contest. Sartoris is now the lior among the muscular young men of Washington.

MORMON HYDE, of Spring City, Utah, thinks that President Grant has seen the handwriting on the wall, or that he soon will see it, which amounts to the dent has oppressed the saints, that his agents and appointees in Utah have oppressed them, and that under "this oppression, the saints have earnestly prayed to heaven, and God has heard their cries. and has come down to look into the matter, as He came down in ancient days to examine the progress of the tower of Babel, and to smite the party that have so grievously oppressed His people, with confusion and disorganization,"

Post-Master-General Jewell's head is in danger. He has no sympathy with the postal ring and General Grant has. Not long since he annulled some contracts for carrying units on the Missioippi river, given out by a man named Peterson, by which from fifty thousand to seventy-five thousand dollars per annua would have been saved to the government. When President Grant was informed of the Post-Master General's attempt to economize, he sent for Mr. Jewell, and after an interview between the two, Mr. Jewell revoked his order concerning. Peterson, and discharged the clerk who had indiscreetly exposed Contractor Peterson's habit of charging the government four times as much as he pays the persons who actually earry the mails. A resolution has been introduced into Congress asking Mr. Jewell to explain why he annulled Perterson's contracts and then wiped out his own order.

MR. WILLIAM B. KEAM, of New York City, is now in the Penitentiary at Biackwell's Island for three months. Mr. Keam's crime was the killing of a cat and Mr. Henry Bergh was his accuser. As told in court, Mr. Keam's story was to the effect that, as he was passing along the street, an inforiated cat, with a handkerchief tied around its neck, sprang upon him. He tried to dash it off, but failing, seized the ends of the handkerchief and dashed the cat with such force against a carriage block as to kill it instantly. He supposed the bandkerchief had been tied round the cat's neck by mischievous boys, and that this had maddened it. Mr. Keam has a wife and child dependent on his labor for support. The citizens of New York have or are about to petition the Governor to pardon him, and it is probable that the unfortunate cat killer will soon be released. The citizens of New York should organize a society for the suppression of Bergh, whose philanthrophy has run away with his good sense.

## IN THERE ANYTHING IN THIS?

The Constitution provides that no law shall be amended by reference to its title only, but that the section amended shall be inserted at length in the new act. The General Assembly construed this constitutional provision to mean that the seein the amending act. There can be no doubt that the section of any law amended, if set forth at length in the "new act," is of blading torce, provided the Supreme Court shall, as it probably will, decide that the construction given to this chause

The Twenty-Eighth General Assembly amended the Registry Law. The first section of the "new act" reads as fol-

Section 1. Be if enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the Gen-sons who will have been one year in the eral desembly. That Section 1 of an act State, ninety days in Alexander county entitled an act for the registry of elector &c., be and the same is hereby amended

length.]

clause of the Registry Law, contained in First Ward thirty days before an election Section 1 of the act, is omitted from that to be held six months after the board is section as amended and inserted at length required to decide the matter? in the "new act."

first section of a law. When it came up I tion in April next to revise, correct

for consideration in the House, the point and complete a list of qualified voters was made, that the enacting clause was a made six months before. If in October of part of the section of the law proposed to the year before, John Smith, Peter Brown. be amended-that it had been omitted James Johnson and so forth, have been The House sustained the point. The go before the judges of thousand circulation, since the beginning posed to be amended—the first—and then listed as a qualified voter of the Second

It is possible that the General Assemsection of a law, but is it? All the laws qualified to vote. of Himois commence: "Section 1. Be it emacted," &c., but it is possible the courts would not hold the enacting clause o be part of the section. However, the best lawyers in the House and Senate. in the matter referred to above held that it was necessary, when amending the first section of a law, to retain the emeting

If this is true, have we now Registry Law? The first section of that act as amended and inserted at length in the "new net," in force July, 1874, does not contain the enacting clause. Does this unission amount to anything?-does it in effect repeal the registry law?

REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS, An attempt, which we hope may be uccessful, is being made in the General Assembly to repeal the act for the regis-

tration of electors. Last Winter an effort was made in the same thing. Mr. Hyde says that the Presi- Legislature to wipe this law from the statute books. The Republican members, with great unanimity, resisted the effort and made it a failure; but the opponents of the registry system, compelled the Republicans to modity the law and make its execution less expensive to the people.

In the attempt made by the friends of the law to modify it so that the clamor for its repeal could be stifled, the law became a very peculiar piece of legislative

shall constitute a Board of Registry for their respective towns, cities, The new powder consets of hexagona wards, districts or precincts, and prisms like the old, but the prisms are shall meet on Tuesday, three weeks preeding any State election, and proceed to make a list of all persons qualified to vote at the ensuing election in the election disstict of which the several boards are the judges or inspectors, which list, when completed, shall constitute and be known as the register of electors of said election district

Let us enquire what is the effect of this provision of the law.

On Tuesday three weeks before any State election the judges of election in every election district in the State must meet and prepare a list of persons in said district qualified to vote at the next ensuing election in each of said districts. The judges can meet as directed, but they can not prepare the list of electors provided for in this peculiar law. This will be seen by reciting the actual operations of the

There are in Cairo two precincts and five wards. In each precinct and in each ward there are three judges of election. Under the registry law the judges of election in South Cairo precinct and in North Cairo precinct met on Tuesday, three weeks before the State election last November, and made a list of the persons entitled to vote at that election. This list they revised on Tuesday of the week that preceded the election. The judges in these precincts could make a list of qualified voters under the law; they could determine whether the citizen offering to register would, on election day, have been in the State a year, in the county ninety days and in the election district thirty days, the qualification of an elector being a residence of one year in the State, ninety days in the county and thirty days in the

election district. But on the same day-on Tuesday, three weeks before the November election last fall, it was the duty of the judges of election in the several wards of this city to also meet and proceed to make a tion as amended must be inscried at length list of persons qualified to vote in each of the wards of Cairo at the election to be held next April. The law directs this to be done. It says: the Judges of election in each ward shall meet on Tuesday, three weeks preceding every State election, and make a list of all persons of the Constitution by the General As qualified to vote at the ensuing election sembly shall stand. Whatever is inserted in the election district—the ward—of into the section of a law amended is law; which they are judges. The election is xi whatever is omitted ceases to have offect, easing in the several wards of Cairo, after Tuesday three weeks before any State election held in November, is the April election, and therefore the judges of these wards are required by this law to make in October of one year a list of persons qualified to vote-that is to say, of perand thirty days in one of the wards of Cziro-at an election to be Sec. 1. That the persons authorized by held in April of the next year, six months after the list must be made! How can [The section as amended is set forth at this be done? How can a Board of Registry determine that Tom It will be observed that the enacting Jones will have been a resident of the

Section 4 of the law provides that the It may be to enquire too curiously to Board of Registry shall meet on Tuesday ask: "Does the omission of the enacting of the week preceding said elections, in clause from an amended law destroy the their respective election districts, for the law?" but we would like to know. The purpose of revising, correcting and com-Twenty-Eighth General Assembly decid- pleting said lists. It may be said this ded that such an omission would be fatal provision of the law corrects to the law proposed to be amended. A the first section; but does it? The judges bill for an act was sent from the Senate of the First Ward of Cairo must meet on to the House. It was a bill to amend the Tuesday next preceding the city elec-

from the section of said law by the Senate; listed as qualified voters in the Frst Ward that this omission would in effect repeal at the April election, and they have rethe whole law proposed to be amended. I moved into the Second Ward, they may Senate recalled the bill, reconsidered the Second Ward, and each of them vote by which it had been passed, sent it by stating the streets on which he to a committee with instructions to insert resides and the number of the house in the enacting clause in the section pro- which he fives, may have his name passed the bill and returned it to the ward; but how are the judges of the First ward to get these names off the list of that ward? The Judges may know dy included in unnecessary trouble in that they have removed from the ward this matter, but it may be true that a law but cunnot strike their names off the list the first section of which is amended by unless two legal voters of the First ward striking out the emeting clause is in ef- shall swear to facts that will satisfy the feet repealed. This is undoubtedly true, judges that the removed citizens are nonif the enacting clause is part of the first residents of the ward or otherwise not

This law is entitled, "An set for the registry of voters and to prevent fraudulent voting," but really it is an net to encourage trandule it voting in all cities acting under the general incorporation act of the State. It is a fraud, and should be repealed,

A registry law is not needed in Hilnois. Such a law does not protect the poils. and is very expensive. The States in which there are registry laws, are the States notorious for corruptions in clestions. The States in which there are no registry laws are those noted for the purity of their elections.

A Terrible Satcide.

(Special Disputch to St. Louis Demound ) Washington, D. C. February 17 .- A most frightful sulchie of arred at the Capitol to-day. A young inboring man jumped from the highest porch over the dome, struck upon the dome and began to whirl over and over, struck below, on the cornec above one of the porches and at the base of the dome, and landed on his head on the roof of the main porch at the east front of the building. The distance of the fall was over 150 fect, and the force of the fall drove his head with such force apon the copper roof as to leave a deep indentation. His brains were spattered over a large space, and nearly everybone in his body seemed broken. The father of deceased was found, but could assign no reason for the act, unless it was pondency from being out of work.

A New Powder for Heavy Guns. The Baltie Genette says that the Gercame a very peculiar piece of legislative botch-work, as an examination of its provisions will prove.

The first section provides that the persons authorized by law, or appointed personal to any town or city ordinance, to act as judges or inspectors of election, which is far superior to that used in England and Russia. The powder little representation of the Russian, and was proved to be more effective than the English in some trials made with an English eight-inch was proved. Woolwich gun and a Prussian 72-pound on the artiflery shooting ground at Tegpierced with one hole only instead of seven, and the specific gravity of the pow der is raised from 1.65 to 1.68. According to the Baltic Gazette the results produced by this improved powder are extraordinary

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